

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I HEREBY DECLARE:

THAT my residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

THAT I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one inventor is named below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below or in an attached Declaration) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLOSING AN OPEN END OF A PRODUCT AND PRODUCT FORMED THEREBY

(Attorney Docket No. 046201/0106)

the specification of which (check one)

 is attached hereto.

 X was filed on February 1, 2001 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number 09/774,874 and was amended on (if applicable).

THAT I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above; and

THAT I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I HEREBY CLAIM foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number	Country	Foreign Filing Date	Priority Claimed?	Certified Copy Attached?

I HEREBY CLAIM the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

U.S. Provisional Application Number	Filing Date
60/179,387	February 1, 2000

I HEREBY CLAIM the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Application Number	Parent Filing Date	Parent Patent Number

I HEREBY APPOINT the following registered attorneys and agents of the law firm of FOLEY & LARDNER:

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WILLIAM T. ELLIS	Reg. No. 26,874
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MICHAEL D. KAMINSKI	Reg. No. 32,904
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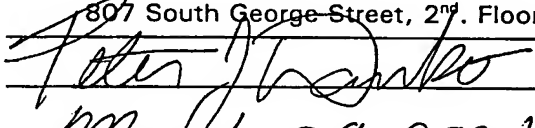
to have full power to prosecute this application and any continuations, divisions, reissues, and reexaminations thereof, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

I request that all correspondence be directed to:

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I FURTHER DECLARE THAT all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Name of first inventor	Peter DANKO
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Citizenship	United States of America
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Inventor's signature	
Date	March 29, 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Peter Danko
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLOSING AN OPEN END OF A
PRODUCT, AND PRODUCT FORMED THEREBY
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 10/01/2003
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

ASSERTION OF SMALL ENTITY STATUS

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

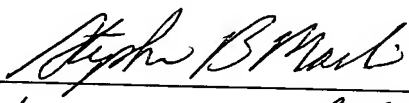

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.27(c)(1), Applicant hereby asserts entitlement to small entity status in the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Oct. 1, 2003

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By 
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